

# Herbert, Mary Milburn and Skelly Sta

"The Girl in the Spotlight," at National Theater, Received Enthusiastically by Audience Delighting in Cheery Music, Dancing and Girls.

By LOUIS ARMSTRONG.

The George W. Lederer Producing Company presented "The Girl in the Spotlight," with music by Victor Herbert and book and lyrics by Richard Bruce, before an appreciative audience last night at the National Theater.

**THE CAST:**  
 Frank Marvin..... Jack Squire  
 Bill Ward..... James J. Dunn  
 Max Price..... Paul Burns  
 Molly Shannon..... Mary Milburn  
 Bea..... Minerva Grey  
 Eugene..... Hal Scott  
 Nita Romane..... Eunice Vane  
 John Rawlins..... Evelyn Greig  
 Mary..... Odell Cunningham  
 Laurette..... Lillian Young

Victor Herbert served as a lone stone to fill the National Theater last night. He acquitted himself nobly. Not only did he direct the augmented orchestra in interpreting his own music, but he was induced to step

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**OLD NORTH STATE:** Feb. 22—Mar. 29

**NEW YORK—NAPLES—GENOA:**  
 Cabin and 3d Class  
**FOCAHONTAS:** Feb. 23—Apr. 7  
**PRINCESS MATOIKIA:** Mar. 8—Apr. 21

**NEW YORK—BREMEN—DANZIG**  
 Cabin and 3d Class  
**NEW ROCHELLE:** Feb. 11  
**SUSQUEHANNA:** Feb. 18—Apr. 6

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 AND RETURN  
 War Tax 5% additional  
**Sunday, February 13**  
**SPECIAL TRAIN**  
 Lva. Washington (Union Station) 7:30 A.M.  
 Returning, leave Broad Street Station 7:30 P.M., West Philadelphia 7:30 P.M., Chester 8:10 P.M., Wilmington 8:30 P.M.  
 Tickets on sale Friday preceding  
 Excursion.  
 Similar Excursions February 27, March 12, April 19 and 26.  
 The right is reserved to limit the sale of tickets to the capacity of equipment available.

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upon the stage and make a brief address. His remarks were most happy, thanking the audience for its undoubted appreciation, but insisting that the company, and especially Mary Milburn, share the honor. Of course after that—what was there to do? Mr. Herbert will direct the orchestra again tonight.

As for "The Girl in the Spotlight," it offers little new to constant theatergoers in the way of a story, scenery or even music. It is much along the stereotyped lines, but two songs were prominent and two performers stood out before the others.

"I Cannot Sleep, Dear, Without Dreaming of You," the theme of the entire production, is offered with the rising curtain. Making an immediate hit, it served to keep the audience in a cheerful mood for the remainder of the performance. "Let's Pretend," a duet with Miss Milburn and Hal Skelly, was the other exceptional song.

Miss Milburn brings youth, inauspicious and a clear soprano to gladden the hearts and eyes of those in the audience. She was fairly entitled to the praise given her by Mr. Herbert in his curtain speech.

Hal Skelly, romped through the evening, causing much laughter, but it remained for his final appearance with three dancing girls to establish himself beyond argument. "I Cannot Sleep, Dear, Without Dreaming of You," the theme of the entire production, is offered with the rising curtain. Making an immediate hit, it served to keep the audience in a cheerful mood for the remainder of the performance. "Let's Pretend," a duet with Miss Milburn and Hal Skelly, was the other exceptional song.

There is nothing about this musical play to cause corrugated brows, but it is bright and cheerful from first to last, with plenty of music and dancing and pretty girls. After all, these count for much.

**KNICKERBOCKER—**  
**"Isobel."**  
 That unfortunate calamity that a "sailor has a sweetheart in every port" evidently supplied the germ idea that was eventually expanded into the laughable film comedy, featuring the Vanity Fair girls and Eddie Boland, which was presented yesterday for the first time at the Knickerbocker Theater under the title of "Oh Promise Me."

In this brilliant travesty on marriage as it pertains to the merchant marine, a certain Mr. Jimpson, of New York, was about to become a more or less happy bridegroom when seductive sirens to whom he had pledged his troth from Timbuctoo to Mandalay began to put in their appearance, and in a manner, dampen the ardor that previously had marked the celebration of his fabled wedding day.

It is, we are led to believe, disconcerting to nervous young gentlemen about to assume the devastating bonds of matrimony to be confronted by Spanish, French, Swedish, Chinese, Egyptian and other ladies seemingly possessed of prior claims upon his affections.

Other subsidiary features of the bill arranged for yesterday and tonight at the Knickerbocker include a new issue of the Pathe News which discloses authentic advance hints of spring styles, and an amusing budget of the Literary Digest's "Topics of the Day."

The major feature of the early-week bill is George Davis' film version of James Oliver Curwood's story of "The Trail's End," presented with House Peters and Jane Novak in the leading roles under the new title of "Isobel."

**EMPRESS—**  
**"Up In Mary's Attic."**  
 "Up In Mary's Attic," a whimsical comedy drama, opened at the Empress Saturday to a large and appreciative audience. The plot is wonderfully fascinating and holds the interest throughout, being full of thrills and swift-moving action. The story is an episode of laughter and romance.

**CRITERION—**  
**"The Sage Hen."**  
 Motivated, idealized, glorified, and immortalized, is the theme of "The Sage Hen," that was shown for the first time at the Criterion Theater Saturday afternoon. It is essentially a heart interest story, and contrasts the love of a mother for a son and adopted daughter, with the love of a man for a maid, but the romance has been woven together with a gripping interest-holding plot that permits many moments of tense action and breath-catching thrills.

**CHURCH TO DISCONTINUE**  
**TAKING UP COLLECTIONS**  
 DUNKIRK, N. Y., Feb. 7.—Believing that the passing of the collection plate in church fringes on the border of commercialism, the congregation of the First Baptist Church, at a meeting Saturday night, voted to discontinue the passing of the plate during services in the church.

Free-will offering boxes will be placed near the entrance of the church auditorium.

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**OF GOOD U. S. CURRENCY**  
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Most of the bills he tore up were \$100 and \$50 greenbacks. Handfuls of mutilated greenbacks and a few good ones, sufficient to fill a quart measure, were taken from the prisoner.

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Miss Gish was selected for the story or the story for Miss Gish, her success is unqualified. Those who have seen her in her other vehicles are familiar with the fact that she has a spiritual appeal, rather than the outward actress, and she appeals as she uses in every facial expression, every glance of her eyes, and every movement of her fingers. Her acting and that of Richard Barthelmess are frequently applauded, despite the fact that it is only their shadows which the spectators see.

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**"She Couldn't Help It."**  
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Unusually amusing and instructive short subjects including a clever comedy and an exclusive showing of recent world events as pictured in the Fox News, together with an appropriate and well rendered orchestra score arranged by Claude V. Burrows, musical director, conclude a meritorious presentation.

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**"Once to Every Woman."**  
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